

Green News

from the Adarsh Seuj Prakalpa Project
Digboi, Assam

Issue 3,
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A New Organic Vegetable Corner in Digboi!

Along the roadway in front of the Adarsh Seuj Prakalpa garden we are going to install a small selling center for naturally-produced vegetables. Currently in Digboi town there is no such place where people can buy purely organic, chemical-free vegetables.

In addition, we would like to sell good quality local seeds and eco-friendly products like vermicompost and vermishash that can be used to improve soil fertility. If farmers or home gardeners want to buy botanical formulas for improving soil or controlling insect pests, he or she can place an order with us and we will prepare it for them.



We hope to provide self help groups from Muliabari and the local area with the opportunity to sell items they produce such as juice of local fruits, traditional Assamese snacks like *HANDOGURI*, *KOLKHAR*, etc. This is a small help from our side to the local self help groups.

Exploring organic farming and culture in Nepal!



LEARN NEPALI, LIVE THE RURAL NEPALI LIFE!

“Eternal Farming” is an organic farm located near Chitwan in south central Nepal. The goals of this project are very similar to those of Adarsh Seuj Prakalpa, and we are currently exploring ways our two centers might be able to work together!

Visitors to the farm can learn about practices that Eternal Farming is adopting, and learn about Nepali culture, language and rural lifestyles. As a volunteer, you can live and work on an organic farm or teach in a school in the beautiful Chitwan area, 15km from a famous national park.

For more information, contact eternal.farming@gmail.com. Please give a few days for a reply as email doesn't get checked every day! Or call 9841 787136 before 10 am or after 4 pm. Their website is www.eternalfarming.blogspot.com

We're hopeful that staff from Eternal Farming may visit Assam later this year to exchange stories and information with people from our area. Please let us know if you'd like to participate!

Two Garden Tips For You

1. Whenever possible, use the best quality, problem-free local seed.
2. Always treat seeds before sowing at least for half an hour in 50% cow urine solution.



Adarsh Seuj Prakalpa is a demonstration garden and resource centre located in the town of Digboi, Tinsukia District, which promotes sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices. We provide training in our classroom at the site and, upon request, at nearby towns and villages.

Visitors to the garden can learn about how to produce compost, vermicompost and other low-cost materials for improving the soil and controlling insect pests. We rely on organic and traditional techniques, and use no chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

Everyone is Welcome !

Address: Pengaree Road, near the Muliabari Post Office, Digboi, Assam
Phone: 03751 269880 fertilegroundpompy@yahoo.co.in www.fertile-ground.org

Powerpoint

ASP has been collecting information about sustainable agriculture from different reliable sources.

We have Powerpoint presentations on many topics, including how to prepare vermicompost, how to control common insect pests, etc. Many have been translated into the Assamese language.

Contact us for more information!



Importance of preserving local seeds

Once there were more than 100 varieties of rice in Assam. Where have those gone now?

We have heard people say that the unique flavour and other qualities of some traditional rice varieties are changing. Could this be the result of pollen from high-yielding varieties mixing with pollen of our local rice varieties?

Nowadays farmers and consumers throughout the world are becoming more aware of the importance of saving and protecting local seeds.



With use of fertilizers and irrigation, many hybrid and high-yielding varieties give high yields and have good flavour. However, we encourage farmers to grow local vegetables at least on a small piece of land rather than not growing them at all.

Adarsh Seuj Prakalpa maintains a register where we record the addresses of farmers who grow local seeds and may be willing to trade or share the seed with other farmers. This is a small approach from our side to save or to help keep local seeds in the hands of the local people.

Did you know?

Spiders are beneficial inhabitants of any garden.



Spiders are considered to be the most important terrestrial predators, eating tons of pest insects or other small arthropods every year.

Spiders are generalist predators that are willing to eat almost any insect they can catch. They are abundant and found in most habitats.

They only want to be left alone!

What is organic agriculture?

Organic agriculture has been defined by the National Organic Standards Board of the USA (1996) as

"an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity.

It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony".

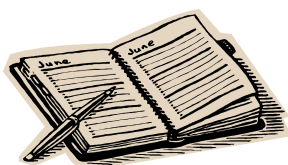
The objective of organic agriculture is to produce nutritious food in an economically viable and environmentally beneficial way.

An organic production system is designed to work constructively with natural biological cycles and to operate with minimal external inputs .



ASP staff demonstrate proper way to preparing compost, a low-cost, effective and natural fertilizer

A few words from our Visitor's Register....



Members of Rotary International's Group Study Exchange program from Nigeria, South Africa, came to visit the garden on 28-2-08. One of the guests from Wuse Central in Abuja wrote:

"I have never seen its kind before. I have learnt a lot and I really want to say I really appreciate what you are doing. God bless."